

In the claims:

Applicant restates the claims of this application as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of counteracting the effects of variation in static pressure upon a hollow rotor blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ immersed in the ~~(8)~~ of flowing water or other liquid ~~by~~ comprising the step of equalising the pressure inside and outside the rotor blade or hydrofoil.
2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~and characterised in that the pressure is equalised by~~ wherein the equalising step comprises filling any voids ~~(17)~~ in the rotor blade or hydrofoil with a liquid.
3. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 ~~and characterised in that the pressure equalisation is controlled by means of~~ further comprising the step of providing pressure balancing control means ~~(22, 23)~~ provided upon the rotor blade or hydrofoil.
4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3 and ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the pressure balancing control means ~~is effected by means of~~ comprises a diaphragm ~~(22)~~ or piston arrangement ~~(23)~~ provided upon the rotor blade or hydrofoil.
5. (Currently amended) A method of counteracting the effects of variation in static pressure acting upon a hollow rotor blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ for devices ~~capable of~~ extracting energy from a moving column ~~(8)~~ of water or other liquid within which the rotor or hydrofoil is located, the variation in static pressure being ~~whether the device rotates as in the case of an axial flow turbine (1) or whether it reciprocates in the flow such that cyclic static pressure fluctuations~~ caused by vertical movement of the rotor blades or hydrofoils through the water column, the method comprising ~~including~~ the step of equalising the pressure inside and

outside the rotor blade or hydrofoil by filling any voids (17) within the hollow rotor blades or hydrofoils with a liquid in such manner as to allow the external surface of said rotor blades or hydrofoils to "breathe"; i.e., to expand and contract under the influence of external static pressure variations, whereby cyclic static pressure fluctuations caused by vertical movement of the rotor blades or hydrofoils through the water column (8) do not cause fluctuating stresses in the rotor blades or hydrofoils (6, 7).

6. (Currently amended) A method for filling the voids in the rotor blades or hydrofoils (6, 7) for devices capable of extracting energy from a moving water column (8), ~~whether the device rotates as in the case of an axial flow (1) or whether it reciprocates in the flow~~ whereby cyclic static pressure fluctuations caused by vertical movement of the rotor blades or hydrofoils through the water column (8) do not cause large fluctuating stresses as a result of air-filled or gas-filled voids, comprising the step of (17) allowing the external surface (26) of said rotor blades or hydrofoils to "breathe"; i.e., to expand and contract under the influence of external static pressure variations.

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 5 or 6 and further comprising the step of ~~any one of the preceding claims and characterised by~~ flooding the interior (17) of a the hollow rotor blade or hydrofoil with liquid in such a way that it is not possible for a void to form which can allow a "breathing" effect when the rotor blade (6, 7) moves cyclically through a vertical distance in the water column.

8. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 and ~~characterised by~~ further comprising the steps of filling any voids (17) within a the rotor blade or hydrofoil (6, 7) with water or other substantially incompressible liquid, the arrangement being such that potential for the casing (16) or outer surface of the hydrofoil or rotor blade to suffer undesired stresses and strains as a result of the a 'breathing' effect will be significantly reduced.

9. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor or hydrofoil ~~(4)~~ of hollow construction, ~~and including~~ comprising means ~~(22, 23)~~ for enabling equalisation of internal and external pressures arising on the blades or hydrofoil during cyclic movement of the blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ through a vertical distance when located in a moving column ~~(8)~~ of water or other liquid.

10. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or hydrofoil of a hollow construction as claimed in claim 9, and ~~characterised in that the further~~ comprising an interior ~~(17)~~ of the hollow rotor blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ is adapted to be ~~fillable~~ filled with a liquid in such a way that it is not possible for a void to form within the blade or hydrofoil interior such as to allow the rotor blades or hydrofoils to 'breathe' during cyclic movement of the blade or hydrofoil through a vertical distance in a moving column of water or other liquid.

11. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or hydrofoil of a hollow construction as claimed in claim 10, and ~~characterised in that the rotor blades or hydrofoils (6, 7) are provided with~~ further comprising openings ~~(18, 20)~~ at the rotor blade or hydrofoil extremities thereof for the purposes of the filling of the blades or hydrofoils with water or other liquid and to allow air to be displaced when the rotor or hydrofoil is submerged.

12. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or hydrofoil of hollow construction as claimed in claim 9, and ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising pressure balancing control means ~~(22, 23)~~ are provided upon the rotor blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~, ~~the arrangement being such as to enable the pressure equalisation of the~~ rotor blade or hydrofoil.

13. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or hydrofoil of hollow construction as claimed in claim 12, and ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising a diaphragm means ~~(22)~~ is provided on the blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ for enabling ~~the pressure~~

~~equalisation the arrangement being such as to enable~~ equalisation of the pressure of an internal fluid filling the interior ~~internal (17)~~ relative to external pressure conditions.

14. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or hydrofoil of hollow construction as claimed in claim 12, and ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising a piston and cylinder arrangement ~~(23)~~ is provided on the blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ for enabling the pressure ~~equalisation, the arrangement being such as to enable equalisation~~ of the pressure of an internal fluid filling the internal voids ~~(4)~~ relative to external pressure conditions.

15. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or hydrofoil of a hollow construction as claimed in claim 9, or 10 or 11, and ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising anti-fouling and/or anti-corrosive coatings on the interior of said rotor blade or hydrofoil ~~(6, 7)~~ ~~is treatable treated with anti-fouling and/or anti-corrosive coatings~~ to prevent internal marine growth, bio-fouling and/or corrosion.

16. (Currently amended) A turbine rotor blade or ~~of~~ hydrofoil of hollow construction as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 12 or 13 or 14 ~~to 15~~, and ~~characterised by~~ further comprising separate filling and draining orifices for the liquid used for filling the rotor or hydrofoil and ~~by~~ plugs or caps to contain the filling fluid and prevent ingress of the external fluid.